

John Kirkpatrick to George Washington, August 23, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM JOHN KIRKPATRICK, ESQ.

ALEXANDRIA 23rd. Augt. 1758.

DEAR SIR/ I am no less honour'd than entertained by your kind Letter of the 20th. which has had a speedy passage hither — and gives me the wished for intelligence of your good Health, amid all your Anxieties, and Troubles — May it long continue — & improve with a full enjoyment of all your wishes — whether in the active attempts to Liberty and Honour — or in the passive paths of Virtue, peace and pleasure.

You have a large share of sympathy from me — could it avail to change the situation of affairs — or my ineffectual Wishes add any thing to the service of my country — which now, more than ever, calls aloud for Redress — In vain does your Generous Zeal, — oppose the Torrent of headstrong prejudice or attempt to clear the Mists of Mistaken Parties — It has long been the luckless fate of Virginia, to fall a Victim to the Views of crafty neighbours and yield her honest efforts to promote their common interest — at the expense of much Blood and Treasure — While her Sincerity Justified her measures — We now, can only bewail that Blindness — and wish for happier times — which seem at so remote a distance — that it is rather to be wished than expected

Your kind detail of the Delays and disappointments that attend You, are extremely acceptable — and we all acknowledge the favour — Could it suit your leisure to give us an Account of the Road from Phila. to Rays Town — thence to Du Quesne — their distance

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— and how passable for carriages — &c. — a better notion can be form'd of this surprising folly — when laid in Contrast to the old Roads — A particular list of Your Army would likewise oblige — and what other intelligence you are pleas'd to communicate — as we shall be better Judges of the Injustice offered by the Pensilvanians — who are all in all.

To drop the dull topick of politicks — and touch the subject of social entertainment — would require a readier genius, to dress the insipid occurrences so as to yield you any degree of Satisfaction — but to take them according to your own Arrangement. — Love, reigns with gentle sway — and rarely in this Age warms the heart beyond the common degree of Fondness — hence, this deficiency of Romantick Lovers Knight Errants — &c. in short his influence is seldom seen. However as an exception I hear Charles' Eskridge intends to Batter down the Gates of Miss Guby's affections in a little time, The Surrender being suspended till Monsr. Ramsay the commandant consent to the Terms of Capitulation — Charles' Colo. vizt., C — le resists the scheme with fruitless arguments. I am almost induced to believe our Friend B. Fairfax has some thoughts of softening his austerity in the arms of some fair Nymph — could he reconcile the Toying, Triffling, Billing Sports of Love to the Solemnity and Gravity of his Deportment — Amusements and joys unbecoming his Philosophic Temper — tho' I cant think he has any inherent aversion to what some esteem the end of Creation.

I am hurried to Conclude because Cowper who brought me yours carries this to Winchester — & waits for me. I have resolved on paying a visit to my native country & may probably take the first occasion in 3 weeks or a Month hence — however shall do myself the pleasure of writing You before I go — & give you a Direction for me — that when it shall please you to honor me with a Letter, I may not suffer a disappointment by miscarriage — I am not resolved to continue at home — but — there — here — or Wherever Fortune fixes me — I am extremely Yours in every respect — as in Duty I ought — & always will be dear Sir Your very much obliged &

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Obed: Hume. Servt. JNO: KIRKPATRICK